

REMARKS

Claims 1-22 are all the claims pending in the application, including new claims 18-22 added by the present Amendment.

The drawings are objected to, because of the use of designation numbers 84, 47b, and 62. Applicants herein amend the specification at pages 22, 29, and 16, respectively, to correct the disclosure of these reference numbers.

The specification is objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter of claim 9 of “said subsidiary display area.” Applicants amend claim 9 to delete the aforementioned limitation, thereby removing the basis for the objection.

Claims 1 and 9 are objected to under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. The above-noted amendment to claim 9 renders moot the rejection of claim 9 under § 112, second paragraph. Claim 1 is amended to correct the antecedent basis problem in the claim, in a non-narrowing manner.

Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yokota et al. (US 6,282,330, hereafter “Yokota”). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection, as set forth below.

Applicants submit that Yokota does not teach or suggest all of the limitations of the claims of the present invention. In particular, with regard to independent claim 1, Yokota fails to teach or suggest a second display section for displaying an outer frame and at least an inner frame located inside the outer frame. The Examiner refers to FIG. 9 of Yokota, as allegedly disclosing this feature of the claim, but Applicant respectfully disagrees. FIG. 9 shows sample

templates displayed in a right portion of the display as thumbnails, and a selected template is displayed in the left portion of the display as a full-sized image. See col. 12, lines 23-33.

However, Yokota does not disclose a second display section for displaying an outer frame and at least an inner frame located inside the outer frame. Hence, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Yokota for at least this reason.

Furthermore, Yokota does not disclose a frame selecting device for selecting one of the outer and inner frames as displayed in the second display section. The Examiner refers to col. 12, lines 45-51 and col. 13, lines 15-20 as allegedly disclosing this feature of the claim. However, the cited excerpts merely refer to the selecting of images and are silent regarding the selecting of outer frames and inner frames. For example, col. 12, lines 45-51 describe the selection of images in FIG. 10, where the images in the right portion of the screen are image list windows displaying images, which are selected to be displayed in the image selection windows on the left side of the screen. In other words, the disclosure in Yokota is one of selecting images, not outer frames or inner frames. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Yokota for this reason too.

Also, Applicants submit that Yokota fails to teach or suggest the crop boundary displayed on the image in the first display section, the crop boundary having a similar shape to the frame that is selected by the frame selecting device, as recited in claim 1. The Examiner asserts that col. 3, lines 14-17 and 39-48 disclose a crop boundary displayed on the image in the first section, but Applicants disagree. The cited excerpts simply state that the operator designates processes to be performed on the image. Also, the Examiner asserts that Yokota discloses the crop boundary having a similar shape to the frame that is selected by the frame selecting device. See page 5 of

the current Office Action. Col. 3, lines 43-46 and col. 13, lines 41-46 disclose that a range of the image to be processed is stored as a command in a predetermined area of the terminal 2000 and that it is possible to arbitrarily designate various editorial processes, respectively. However, the cited excerpts do not disclose the crop boundary having a similar shape to the frame that is selected by the frame selecting device. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is allowable over the prior art for this reason too.

Applicants further submit that Yokota does not teach or suggest a frame modifying device for modifying any of the outer and inner frames by homothetically changing size or position of the crop boundary relative to the image displayed in the first display section, as recited in Applicants' claim 1. Here, the Examiner points to col. 8, lines 30-35 and col. 9, line 65 – col. 10, line 4, respectively, which read as follows:

Reference numerals 7501 to 7503 are a command group for designating editorial processes (editorial command group), such as a template type, the pasting position of an image on the template, an angle of rotation of the image, color or white designation.

For example, assume that an original image is processed with a complicated correction process, and the quality of the image is increased to a satisfactory level. Then, editorial processes are applied to an obtained repaired image and the resultant image is pasted on a template thereby one page of an album is complicated.

The cited excerpts say nothing about modifying outer and inner frames or homothetically changing size or position of the crop boundary relative to the image displayed in the first display section. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Yokota for this additional reason.

With further regard to claim 1, Applicants submit that Yokota does not teach or suggest pasting the cropped area of a first image as the background image in an outer frame, and the

cropped area of a second image as the main image in an inner frame. The Examiner refers to col. 4, lines 45-55, as allegedly disclosing these features of claim 1. However, Applicants submit that the cited excerpt does not describe pasting a cropped area of a first image as the background in an outer frame. Instead, the excerpt simply states that an image can be clipped as a background image and stored as a template in the template storage unit 1310. Likewise, the excerpt fails to disclose pasting the cropped area of the second image as a main image in the inner frame. Rather, what is described by the reference is the combining and outputting of a template and an image as a combined image to the image subsystem 1130. Hence, Applicants submit that claim 1 is not anticipated by Yokota for this reason as well.

Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-17 are allowable over the prior art for the above-noted reasons.

With further regard to claim 2, Applicants submit that Yokota does not teach or suggest a device for enabling changing aspect ratio of any of said outer and inner frames. The Examiner cites col. 3, lines 10-30 as allegedly disclosing this feature of claim 2, but Applicants respectfully disagree. The cited excerpt actually relates to low and high resolution image data, rather than aspect ratios. Yokota is silent regarding changing the aspect ratio of outer and inner frames. Thus, claim 2 is not anticipated by Yokota for this additional reason.

Regarding claim 6, Applicants submit that Yokota does not disclose all of the limitations of the claim. In particular, the reference fails to disclose wherein the frame selecting device automatically selects the outer frame immediately after the outer and inner frames are displayed in the second display section. Instead, the excerpts cited by the Examiner describe an automatic layout function for automatically arranging an image at the most appropriate positions in a

template (col. 11, lines 48-54), selecting from a plurality of templates (col. 11, line 65 - col. 12, line 5), and changing the position where an image is pasted (col. 12, line 65 - col. 13, line 5). Hence, none of these excerpts described the feature of claim 6 of automatically selecting the outer frame immediately after the outer and inner frames are displayed in the second display section. Therefore, Applicants submit that claim 6 is not anticipated by the reference for this additional reason.

Also, Applicants submit that claim 10 is not anticipated by Yokota, because the reference does not teach or suggest a memory for storing location data representative of position of the inner frame relative to the outer frame. None of the portions of Yokota cited by the Examiner disclose this feature of claim 10. The reference is silent regarding storing location data representative of position of the inner frame relative to the outer frame. Thus, Applicants submit that claim 10 is allowable for this reason too.

With further regard to claim 14, Applicants submit that the claim is not anticipated by Yokota for the additional reason that Yokota fails to teach or suggest that the outer and inner frames are determined by the selected template. Col. 11, line 65 - col. 12, line 5, cited by the Examiner, simply states that the templates are selected out of a plurality of templates, which fails to indicate that the outer and inner frames are determined by the selected template. Accordingly, claim 14 is allowable for this reason as well.

New claims 18-22 are added to further define the present invention and are believed to be allowable, at least because of their dependence from claim 1.

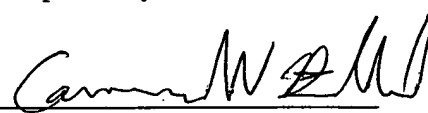
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Amendment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No. 09/883,225

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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